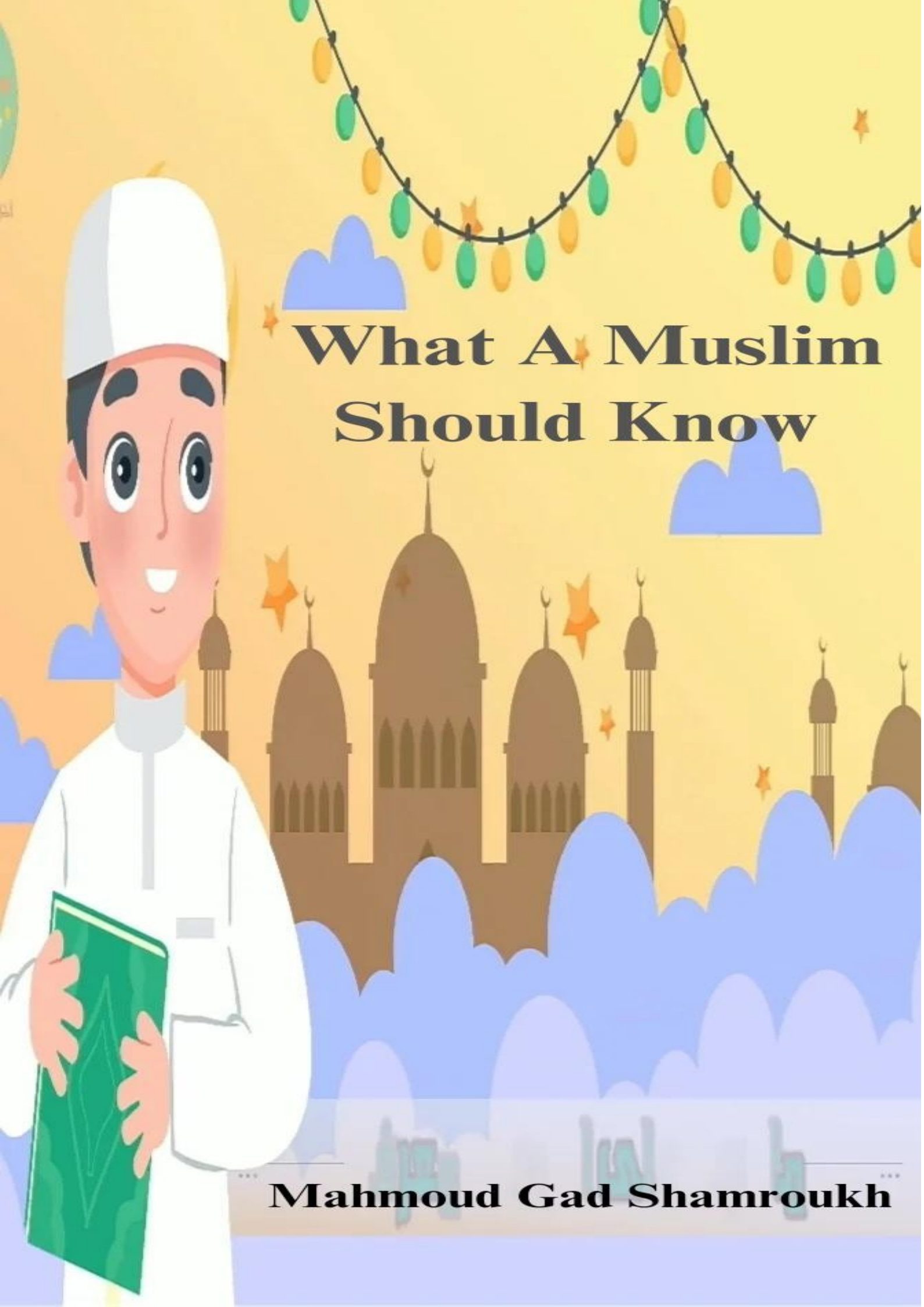
What A Muslim Should Know
Mahmoud Gad Shamroukh

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“ISLAM : QUESTION AND ANSWER”

BY

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Preface

In the name of Allah, the most Beneficent, the most Merciful , All Praise is due to Allah, we praise Him, and seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah, Most High, from the evils of our own selves and from our wicked deeds. Whomever Allah guides cannot be misguided, and whomever He leads astray cannot be guided. I testify that there is no true God worthy of being worshipped except Allah, Alone, without partner or associate. I further testify that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger, May Allah's Peace and blessings be upon him and his pure family and to all of his noble companions , O you who believe! Fear Allah [by doing all that He ordered and abstaining from all that He forbade] as He should be feared [obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always] and die not except in a state of Islam. [TMQ1, aal-'Imraan (3:102)]. O mankind! Be dutiful to your Rab [Allah], Who created you from a single person [Adam] and from him [Adam] He created his wife [Eve], and from them both He created many men and women. And fear Allah through Whom you demand your mutual [rights] and [do not cut the relations of] the wombs [kinship]. Surely, Allah is ever an All-Watcher over you. [TMQ, an-Nisaa' (4:1)]. O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allah and ear Him, and speak [always] the truth. He will direct you to do righteous good deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allah and His Messenger has indeed achieved a great success. [TMQ ,al-Ahzaab (33:70-71)].
It proceeds that the most truthful speech is that of Allah's Book [the Qur'aan] and that the best of guidance is that of Muhammad (PBUH). The worst of evils are the muhdathaat (newly-invented matters [in the deen]), and every innovated matter (in the deen) is a bid'ah; every bid'ah is a dalalah (misguidance), and every dalalah is in the Fire of Hell."

Every Muslim man and woman must know his Lord, his religion, and his Prophet through evidence from the Book of God and the Sunnah of his Prophet - may God bless him and grant him peace - and act in accordance with this knowledge, and be patient with whatever harm befalls him in this path.

The responsible Muslim, whether male or female, must learn the correct creed, and learn the rulings on purification and prayer that will make his worship valid, as well as fasting, the rulings on zakat for those who have money, and the Hajj for those who are able. The book is organized in the form of a dialogue (question and answer) to make it easy for the reader to read and study, My success comes only from Allah. I put my trust in Him, and I return to Him (repentant).

THE FIRST SECTION

Q: Who is your Lord?

A: My Lord is Allah who creates me and creates all the worlds.

Q: Who is your Prophet?

A: My Prophet is Muhammad bin Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib bin Hashim bin Abdul Manaf, {may God bless him and grant him peace}.

Q: Where was the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) born and where did he die?

A: He was born in Mecca and died in Medina.

Q: What do you say when you hear the name of the Prophet, may God bless him and grant him peace?

A: I say: may God bless him and grant him peace or peace be upon him.

Q: What is your religion?

A: My religion is Islam, Allah Almighty said: (Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam). [Surah Al - Imran ,Verse: 19].

Q: What is your book?

Our book is the Holy Quran. The Quran is the word of God Almighty, which is an act of worship by reciting it. Gabriel heard it from Allah Almighty, then Gabriel {peace be upon him} conveyed it to the Prophet Muhammad {may God bless him and grant him peace}.

Q: What is the word of monotheism?

A: The word of monotheism is: There is no god but Allah.

Q: What are the divisions of monotheism?

- ❖ Monotheism of Lordship.
- ❖ Monotheism of Divinity.
- ❖ Monotheism of Names and Attributes.

Q: What is the meaning of Islam?

A: Islam is submission to Allah Almighty through monotheism, obedience to Him, and disavowal of polytheism.

Q: Why did God Almighty create us?

A: God Almighty created us to worship Him alone and not to associate partners with Him. God Almighty said: (And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me).{Surah An-Najm, Verse: 3-4.}.

Q: How many pillars are there in Islam, and what are they?

A: The pillars of Islam are five. The Messenger of Allah {peace be upon him} said: (Islam is based on five: the testimony that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, performing prayer, paying zakat, Hajj, and fasting Ramadan.) {Narrated by Al-Bukhari, in Sahih Al-Bukhari, on the authority of Abdullah bin Omar, page or number: 8}.

- The two testimonies: I bear witness that there is no god but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.
- performing prayer.
- Paying zakat.
- Fasting Ramadan.
- Haj to the House of Allah (Kaaba) for those who are able to do so.

Q: What is the evidence for the testimony that there is no god but Allah?

A: Allah Almighty says: Allah bears witness that there is no god but Him, and [so do] the angels and those of knowledge - maintaining justice. There is no god but Him, the Exalted in Might, the Wise. [Surat Al Imran: verse 18].

Q: What is the evidence for the testimony that Muhammad is the Messenger of God?.

A: Allah Almighty says: Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of God and the Seal of the Prophets.[Surat Al-Ahzab: Verse 40].

Q: What is the meaning of testifying that Muhammad is the Messenger of God?

A: Obeying him in what he commands, believing what he tells, avoiding what he forbade and warned against, and not worshipping Allah except in accordance with what He has prescribed.

Q: What is the evidence for prayer, zakat, and the interpretation of monotheism?

A: The Almighty says: And they were commanded not but to worship Allah, being sincere to Him in religion, being true in faith; and to establish prayer and to give zakat, and that is the religion of right guidance. [Surat Al-Bayinah: verse 5].

Q: What is the evidence for fasting?

A: The Almighty says: O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous. [Surat Al-Baqarah: verse 183].

Q: What is the evidence for Hajj?

A: The Almighty says: “And Hajj to the House is a duty that mankind owes to Allah, those who can afford the expenses. And whoever disbelieves—then indeed, Allah is free from the need of the worlds.” [Surat Al Imran: verse 97].

Q: How many levels of religion are there? And what are they?

The levels of religion are three:

- Islam
- Faith
- Ihsan

Q: What is the meaning of faith?

A: Belief in the heart, saying with the tongue, and doing with the limbs. It increases with obedience and decreases with disobedience. {lameat Alaetiqad, p. 26. Ibn Qudamah.}.

Q: How many pillars of faith are there, and what are they?

A: The pillars of faith are six, and they are:

- Belief in Allah.
- Belief in His angels.
- Belief in His books.
- Belief in His messengers.
- Belief in Day of Resurrection.
- Belief in destiny, both good and bad.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: The Almighty said: Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets." [Surat Al-Baqarah: Verse 177].

Q: What is the evidence of predestination?

A: The Almighty says: "Indeed, all things We created with predestination." [Surat Al-Qamar: Verse 49]

Q: Who are the ten who were promised Paradise?

A: Abu Bakr al-Siddiq, Omar Ibn al-Khattab, Uthman Ibn Affan, Ali Ibn Abi Talib, Talha Ibn Ubayd Allah, al-Zubayr Ibn al-Awwam, Sa`d Ibn Abi Waqqas, Sa`id Ibn Zayd, Abd al-Rahman Ibn Awf, and Abu Ubaydah al-Jarrah.

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THE SECOND SECTION

Q: Who is your Lord?

A: My Lord is Allah who raised me and raised all the world with His grace. He is my deity and I have no deity other than Him, as Allah the Almighty said in Surat Al-Fatihah: “Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds.”.

Q: What is the meaning of (Lord)?

A: The owner, worshipped, disposing, and deserving of worship.

Q: What is the meaning of (Allah)?

A: The one with divinity and servitude over all of His creation.

Q: How do you know your Lord?

A: By His signs and creations.

Q: What is the greatest of His creations that you see?

A: The heavens and the earth. The night and the day, the sun and the moon.

Q: What is the evidence for that?

A: Indeed, your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and earth in six days and then established Himself above the Throne. He covers the night with the day, [another night] chasing it rapidly; and [He created] the sun, the moon, and the stars, subjected by His command. Unquestionably, His is the creation and the command; blessed is Allah, Lord of the worlds.[Surat Al-A’raf: Verse 54].

Q: What did God create us for?

A: To worship Him.

Q: What is His worship?

A: To believe in His Oneness and obey Him.

Q: In what do we obey Him?

A: We obey Him in what He commands us and avoid what He forbids us from.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: Allah Almighty says: “And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me” [Surat Al-Dhariyat: 56].

Q: What is the meaning of “worship”?

A: To worship Allah alone.

Q: What is monotheism?

A: It is singling out Allah for worship.

Q: What is the greatest thing that Allah has forbidden?

A: The greatest thing that Allah has forbidden is polytheism, which is calling upon other than Allah and calling upon others along with Him.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: Allah the Almighty says: “And worship Allah and do not associate anything with Him” [Surat An-Nisa: from verse 36}.

Q: What is worship?

A: It is a comprehensive name for everything that Allah loves and is pleased with, including outward and inward words and deeds.

Q: What are the types of worship?

A: There are many types of worship, including supplication, fear, hope, trust, desire, awe, humility, reverence, repentance, seeking help, seeking refuge, calling for help, slaughtering, vowing, and other types of worship.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: The Almighty said, “And that the mosques are for God, so do not invoke anyone along with God." [Surat Al-Jinn: verse 18].

Q: What is the ruling on someone who spends some of it for other than Allah?

A: He is a polytheist and a disbeliever.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: The Almighty says: And whoever invokes besides Allah another deity for which he has no proof - then his account is only with his Lord. Indeed, the disbelievers will not succeed. [Surat Al-Mu'minun: part of verse 117].

Q: What is the firmest handhold?

A: There is no god but Allah.

Q: What does “there is no god but Allah” mean?

A: (There is no god) negation, (but Allah) affirmation.

Q: What do you negate and what do you affirm?

A: I negate all that is worshipped besides Allah, and affirm all types of worship for Allah alone, with no partner.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: The Almighty said: And when Abraham said to his father and his people, "Indeed, I am disassociated from that which you worship, * Except for He who created me, for indeed, He will guide me." And He made it an enduring word among his descendants that they might return.[Surat Az-Zukhruf: verses 26-28].

Q: What is your religion?

A: My religion is Islam, which is submission to God through monotheism, and to submit to Him through obedience and disavowal of polytheism and its people.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: The Almighty’s saying: “Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam” [Surat Al Imran: verse 26], and His saying: “And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers” [Surat Al Imran: verse 85].

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THE THIRD SECTION

Q: What is Allah's right over His slaves?

A: That they worship Him and associate nothing with Him.

The Evidence: On the authority of Mu'adh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him), who said: I was riding behind the Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) on a donkey. He said to me: "O Mu'adh, do you know what Allah's right over His slaves is, and what the slaves' right over Allah is?" I said: Allah and His Messenger know best. He said: (Allah's right over His slaves is that they worship Him and associate nothing with Him, and the slaves' right over Allah is that He does not punish those who do not associate anything with Him) [Agreed upon].

Q: Is it permissible to hang blue beads and amulets?

A: It is not permissible, and it is a form of polytheism.

Evidence: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: “Whoever hangs an amulet has committed polytheism.[Narrated by Ahmad and it is authentic.]

Q: Is it permissible to slaughter for someone other than Allah?

A: It is not permissible, and it is a form of polytheism, because slaughtering is an act of worship to Allah alone.

Evidence: Allah the Almighty said: Say, "Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds. [Al-An’am: 162-163].

Q: Is it permissible to make a vow to anyone other than Allah?

A: It is not permissible, and it is a form of associating partners with Allah, because a vow is an act of worship to Allah alone.

Evidence: Allah the Almighty says: {And whatever you spend in charity or devotion, be sure Allah knows it all. But the wrong-doers have no helpers.} [Al-Baqarah: 270].

Q: Is it permissible to seek help from other than God or to supplicate to other than God?

A: It is not permissible to seek help from other than God or to supplicate to other than Him in matters that only God has power over, such as: life, death, healing, and relief from distress.

Evidence from the Qur'an: God Almighty said: "You (Alone) we worship, and you (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything)." [Al-Fatihah: 5].

Q: What is the meaning of intercession? Who owns it? What are its conditions?

A: Intercession: mediating for others to bring benefit or prevent harm.

There are many intercessions that will take place on the Day of Judgment.

It belongs to God Almighty alone; He is the One who permits it.

Its conditions:

1- God Almighty's permission for the intercessor to intercede.

God Almighty said: Who is he that can intercede with Him except by His permission?!.[Al-Baqarah: 255].

2- God's pleasure with the one being interceded for; as God Almighty said about the angels: "And they cannot intercede except for him with whom He is pleased. And they stand in awe for fear of Him." [Al-Anbiya': 28]. God Almighty is not pleased with any action except that which is sincere to Him and in accordance with His law.

Q: What is magic? What is the ruling on practicing it? What is its treatment?

A: Magic is readings and talismans that the magician reads to use the devils to harm the bewitched person.

It does not harm except with the permission of Allah; Allah the Almighty says: {And they do not harm anyone thereby except by Allah's permission} [Al-Baqarah: 102]. The ruling on practicing it is that it is disbelief in Allah the Almighty.

The evidence: Allah the Almighty says about magicians: { But the Children of Israel certainly knew that whoever purchased the magic would not have in the Hereafter any share.} [Al-Baqarah: 102].

Its treatment is by reading the Qur'an and the Prophetic supplications, while seeking refuge in God Almighty. He should read: Surat Al-Baqarah, Ayat Al-Kursi, Al-Fatihah, Al-Mu'awwidhat, and the rest of the Qur'an in general.

Q: Who are the soothsayers? Is it permissible to go to them?

A: Soothsayers are those who claim to know the unseen.

They are liars and charlatans; because no one knows the unseen except Allah Almighty.

Evidence: "Say, 'None in the heavens and earth knows the unseen except Allah. Nor do they perceive when they will be resurrected." [An-Naml: 65].

It is not permissible to go to them or believe them. The Messenger of God, peace be upon him, said: "Whoever goes to a fortune teller and asks him about something, his prayer will not be accepted for forty nights.[Narrated by Muslim].

Q: What is superstition? What is its ruling?

A: Superstition is pessimism about things, such as pessimism about crows, black cats, the sound of breaking glass, and the like.

Its ruling: It is minor shirk, because no one brings good or evil except Allah Almighty.

Evidence: The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) said: "Superstition is shirk".{narrated by Al-Tirmidhi and it is an authentic hadith}.

Q: What is the ruling on astrology and reading horoscopes?

A: Astrology, which means inferring what will happen on Earth from the movements of the stars, is not permissible, because the stars are among the creations of Allah Almighty, and they do not know the unseen.

The ruling on learning astrology and reading horoscopes is that it is forbidden, because it is a type of magic.

Evidence: The Prophet [peace be upon him] said: "Whoever takes a branch of the stars(Astrology) has taken a branch of magic." {Narrated by Abu Dawud, and it is an authentic hadith}.

Q: What is Tawassul? What are the types of permissible Tawassul?

A: Tawassul [Begging]: Asking for mediation and supplication through anyone who is believed to be of high status with God to fulfill a need.

Some of the permissible types of Tawassul are:

A- Tawassul to Allah Almighty by His names and attributes; such as saying: O Most Gracious, have mercy on me, O Most Forgiving, forgive me.

B- Tawassul by righteous deeds, such as saying: O Allah, I ask You by my love for Your Prophet to have mercy on me.

C- Tawassul by the supplication of a righteous man, such as asking someone to supplicate for him.

As for the forbidden Tawassul: it is such as saying: O Allah, have mercy on me by the prestige of Your Prophet or by the prestige of the righteous, and this is not permissible because it was not narrated from the Prophet [peace be upon him].

Q: Will people be resurrected if they die?

A: Yes. For sure

Q: What is the evidence?

A: Allah the Almighty says: From the earth We created you, and into it We will return you, and from it We will extract you another time. [Surah Taha, verse: 55].

Q: What is the ruling on someone who denies the resurrection?

A: He is a disbeliever.

Q: What is the evidence?

A: Allah the Almighty says: Those who disbelieve have claimed that they will never be resurrected. Say, "Yes, by my Lord, you will surely be resurrected; then you will surely be informed of what you did. And that, for Allah, is easy.". [Surat At-Taghabun:7].

Glory be to Thee. O Allah, and I begin with praise of Thee, I testify that there is no god but Thou; I ask Thy pardon and return to Thee in repentance.I say this and ask Allah to forgive me and you, so ask for his forgiveness. He is the forgiving and the merciful. O Allah, I glory and praise you; I testify that there is no god but You. I ask for forgiveness, and I repent to you.